

WASHINGTON - Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez welcomed the news that Mexican authorities arrested the alleged killer of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriff David March on February 23.

Deputy Sheriff March was murdered during a routine traffic stop in 2002. His presumed killer, Armando Garcia, fled to Mexico to escape prosecution.

"This is just the first step in bringing Deputy March's killer back to the United States to face justice for his vicious crime," said Congresswoman Sánchez. "Individuals who commit crimes in the United States and then flee the country to avoid persecution and punishment must be extradited back to the United States to pay for their crime. I have pushed hard for Mexico to extradite Mexican nationals by writing to the Mexican President Vicente Fox, cosponsoring legislation to encourage an extradition law, as well as calling on President Bush to renegotiate the U.S.-Mexican Extradition Treaty. "

"I am pleased that in November of last year, the Mexican Supreme Court reversed Mexican policy that previously protected violent criminals like Garcia, by agreeing to extradite suspected criminals facing a life sentence," continued Sánchez. "That Supreme Court reversal, coupled with Garcia's capture, is a significant step forward in U.S.-Mexican relations."

"Garcia now awaits extradition to the U.S. which has helped to bring some relief to the March Family. There are many other families across the country like those of Deputy Sheriff March who have suffered similar tragedies. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with those families, and I will wait in anticipation that Garcia will be returned to the U.S. to face his long-awaited and well deserved punishment," concluded Sánchez.